Sophisticated Equipments to A.P. for Fighting Extremism

5531. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for equipment for combating extremism in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken to supply sophisticated weapons to fight extemists more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As and when Andhra Pradesh Government has projected any requirement of arms/ammunition for combating extremism in the State, efforts have always been made to meet the requirement to the extent possible within the availability constraints.

Talks with Kashmiri Political Leaders

5532. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move on the part of Government to have talks with different political leaders in Kashmir;

(b) if so, what framework Government have in view for discussing Kashmir; and

(c) if not, what prevents Government from doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to initiating dialogue, within the constitutional framework, with alienated sections of society in J&K specially misguided youths.

Modern Weaponry for tackling the Militancy

5533. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are faced with a challenge posed by the fast changing profile of militancy with modern weaponry and technology in Kashmir and North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plan to strengthen and modernise the central security forces and to assist States in strengthening their respective police forces; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The upgradation in weapons holding of the terrorists has enhanced their striking capabilities both in J&K and North-Eastern region.

(b) and (c) Upgradation of weaponry of the paramilitary forces is an ongoing process and the forces are being provided with appropriate weapons in order to ensure that they are in a position to effectively deal with the emerging security scenario. In the recent past a number of modern and sophisticated weaponry and equipments have been introduced in the CPMFs. However, in order to provide a time perspective to Government's efforts and to cope with the challenge of increased militant and terrorist activities, the CPMFs have formulated perspective plans for modernisation of weaponry and equipments which after due examination are proposed to be implemented in phases over the next five years commencing 2000-2001.

Besides modernising CPMFs, it has been the constant endeavour of the Government to modernise the weaponry of State Police forces so that they can face the present day challenge. Due to this effort, it has been possible to equip a significant section of the State Police forces with sophisticated weapons.

Foreign Militants in J&K

5534. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item as appearing in the "Hindu" dated the 3rd April, 2000 captioned increasing presence of foreign militants in J&K; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to stop the infiltration of foreign militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is aware of the news item. Effort on the part of Pak sponsored terrorist outfits to induct foreign mercenaries from across the border into Jammu and Kashmir are continuing. As per the information made available by the Government of J&K, the number of foreign militants/mercenaries killed/arrested in the State during 1999 and current year are as below: